The “Black” History of Chiropractic

Additional info about photos found at end of this file.

A Concise History for the ABCA

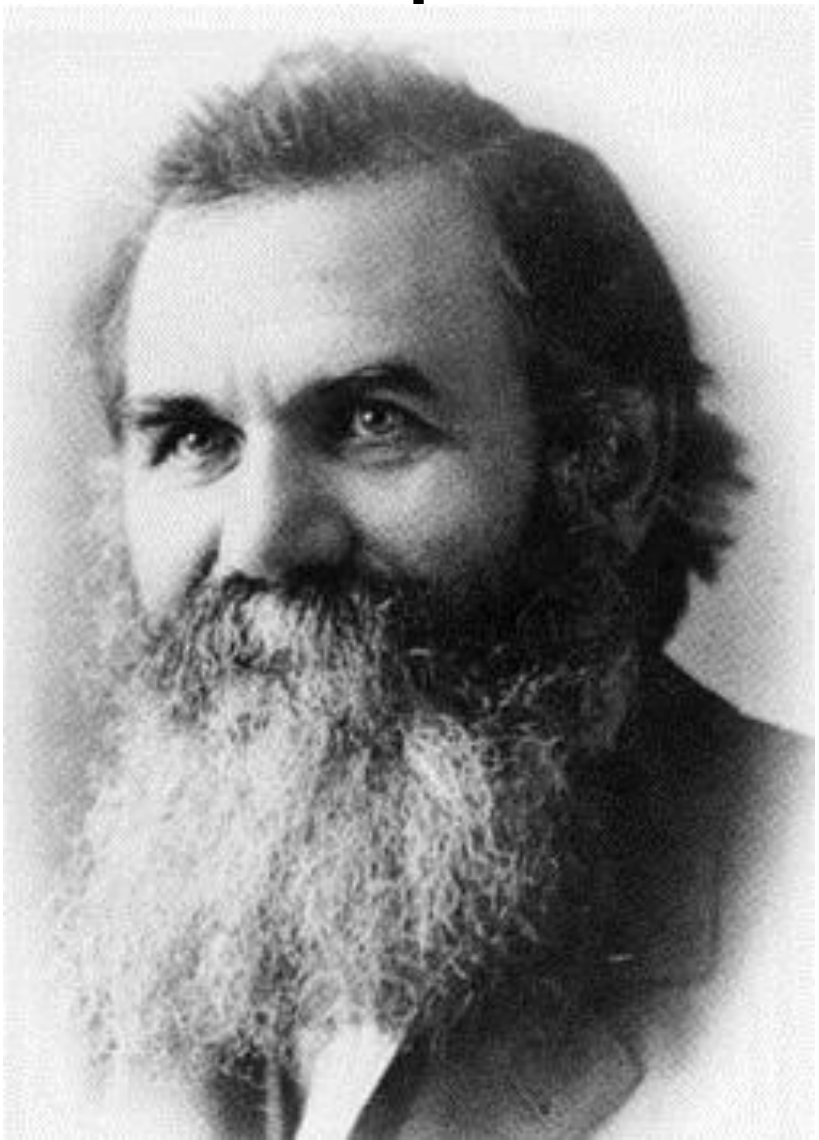
February 13th 2014

By Winston Kyle Carhee Jr. DC

President of the

American Black Chiropractic Association

D.D. Palmer, Discoverer of Chiropractic



Harvey Lillard, of African Ancestry, owned and operated a janatorial service in the building where D.D. Palmer practiced.

Harvey LIllard's Daughter, Valdenia Simons

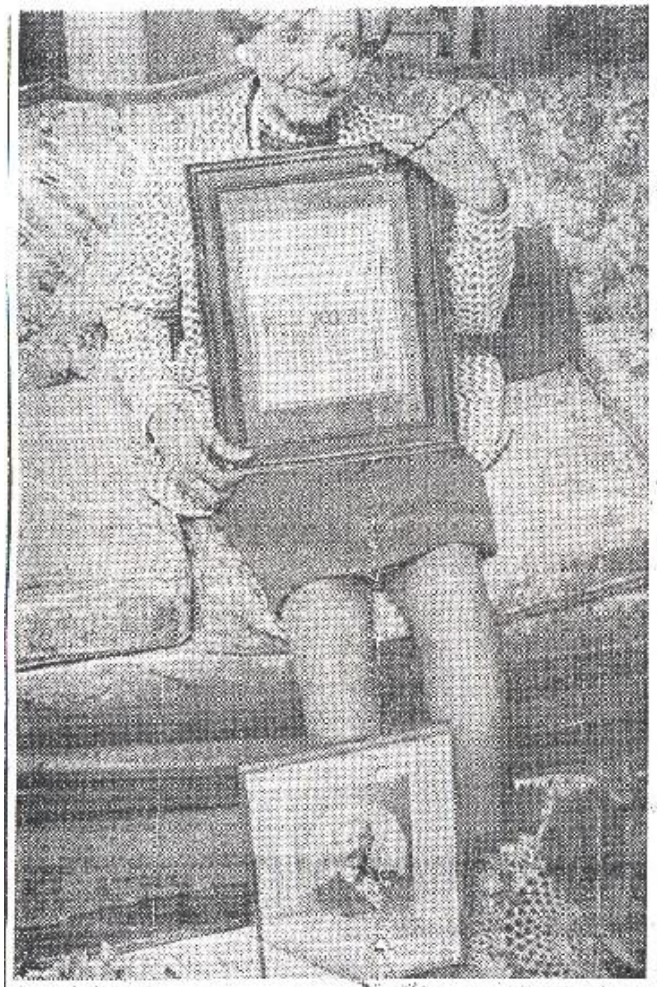


Photo by Art Land

Valdeenia Simons, 88, with an award presented to her by the National College of Chiropractic. April 21 - 1983

IN CHIROPRACTIC CIRCLES,

she's a link to history

By PAM ADAMS PEORIA JOURNAL STAR
of the Journal Star

Valdeenia Simons is not a chiropractor and has been to one only once in her 88 years. But in chiropractic circles, she's something of a celebrity.

The Peorian has been interviewed for books and asked to speak at national chiropractic conventions and graduations. These sponsoring organizations pay her transportation and have her sit on the podium with the big shots in the field.

Afterward, people come to her just to shake her hand. She has been asked to speak at a conference on the history of chiropractic in June at the National College of Chiropractic, Lombard.

She takes all this attention in stride. Her voice takes on a kind of "can-you-imagine-that" tone when the black woman speaks of white people who just want the honor of taking a picture with her.

"When you've been living as long as I have, that's something," she says.

The attention is not as much for her as it is for her father. Harvey Lilliard, the first person said to have been cured by the man who is called the founder of chiropractic, D.D. Palmer. But Lilliard, grandson of an English nobleman, never got any credit. Just how much credit he deserves, and just what part he played in the growth of chiropractic, is not clear.

As most history books tell the story, D.D. Palmer was an interesting, if somewhat eccentric, small-time entrepreneur trying to make a living as a magnetic healer in Davenport, Iowa. He had been working on his theory of healing by spinal manipulation for some time before he actually experimented on Lilliard, a partially deaf janitor.

Mrs. Simons' story, as told to her by one of her father's co-workers, contends that Palmer's discovery was by accident in 1895.

It's a story she tells easily and often. Though her memory sometimes falters when it comes to other details of her life, this story always remains the same as documented in books and papers on the history of chiropractic.

"Chiropractic came into being because of my father," she begins. "Evidently, my father was a tale-teller. He and a man that worked for him stopped in front of D.D. Palmer's office while my father was finishing the story.

"Well, Dr. Palmer was in his office reading a book. The doctor stuck his fingers between the pages and walked out to listen to the end of the tale. The doctor was so tickled that he hit my father in the back with the book."

Harvey Lilliard had been deaf 17 years, ever since he had bent to pick up something and heard a loud pop.

Soon Lilliard discovered he could hear better — and told Palmer it was to his credit.

The two men made a pact, Mrs. Simons says. "I don't know what kind of doctor he was, but he wasn't doing too well at the time. And he said to my father, 'Suppose I work with you and find out what I did. If I become successful, we'll share it.'

"My father told me the doctor gave him a little money one time, and a little money then was little money."

Palmer passed his work to his son, B. J., who founded Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, the first and one of the largest chiropractic schools. David Palmer, the great-grandson of D.D., has often invited Mrs. Simons to special occasions at the school. Ironically, blacks were not admitted as students there until the 1950s.

"When I lived in that area, I was always seeing my father's face on Palmer advertising," Mrs. Simon remembers.

Lilliard left Davenport in 1907, Mrs. Simons says, because he hated the long and bitter conflict between D.D. and B. J. Palmer.

D. D., reportedly mentally ill and suffering from typhoid fever, died in California in 1913. Three attempts were made to take B.J. to trial for his father's murder.

Before he died, D.D. is supposed to have told a friend that his son tried to run over him with a car during a chiropractic convention in Davenport. A rival chiropractic college reportedly gathered false affidavits stating that D.D. died after he was struck by a car driven by his son. Grand juries refused to indict B.J. each time.

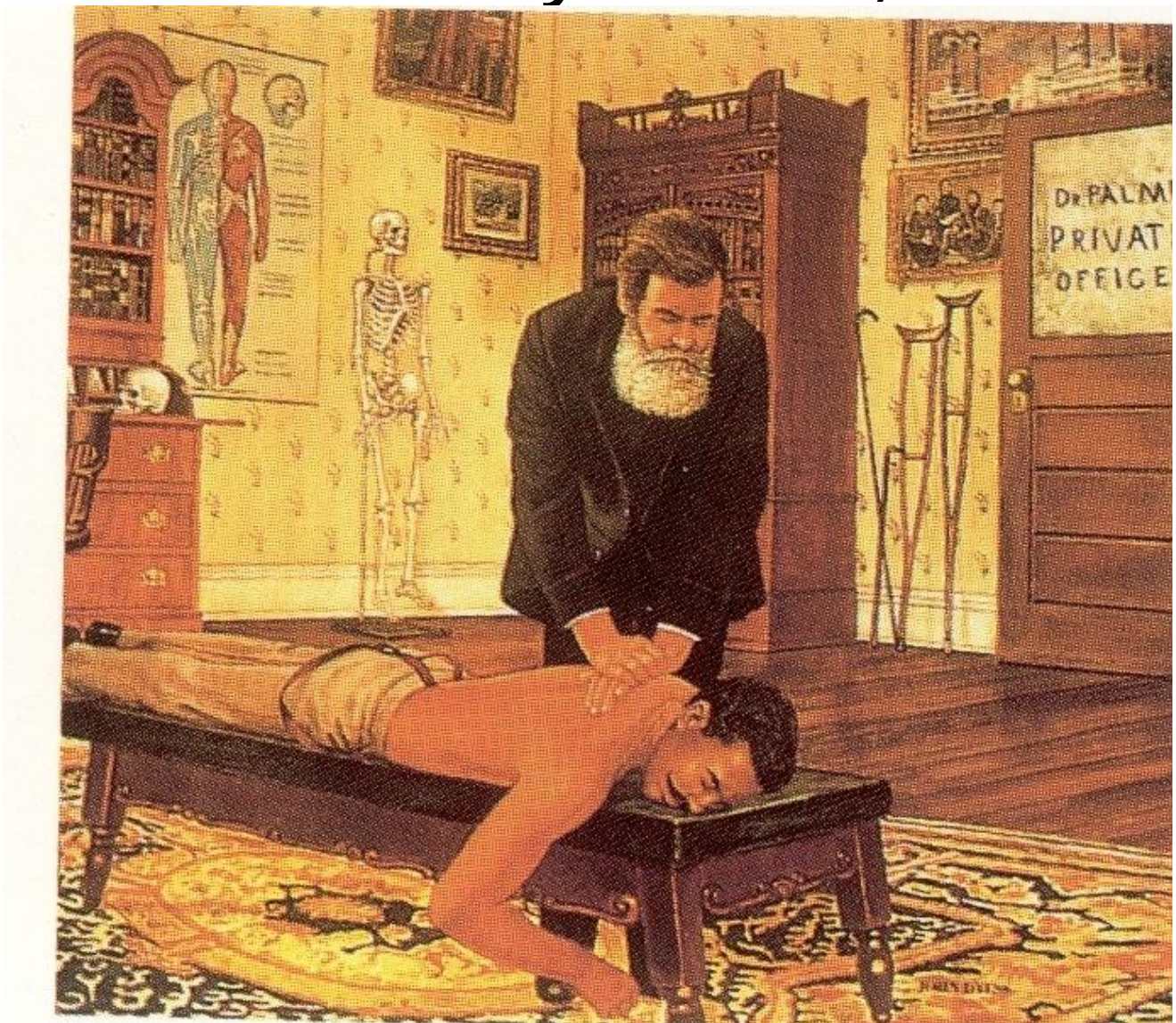
It's not clear just what kind of relationship Lilliard had with the Palmers after the spinal adjustment. "I think he left to get away from the scandal," Mrs. Simons said.

Lilliard moved to Seattle, Wash., where he worked as a deputy sheriff before he died in 1925.

"The year chiropractic came into being, Valdeenia Simons came into being," she likes to say. And she has lived to become a symbol of chiropractic history.

HAPPY FACE
ANNOUNCEMENT

The First Adjustment, D.D. Palmer and Harvey Lillard, 1895.



A portrait of the first chiropractic patient.

Please fill out and return this Questionnaire promptly. Your answers will enable us to co-operate in giving you such information as will best serve your purpose in making reply to inquiry.

DATE _____, 193__

1. Name in full _____ 2. Age _____

3. Address _____

4. Previous business or mechanical experience:
State kind of business and number of years in each, etc. _____

5. Previous schooling:

Common School (What grade) _____

High School (How long) _____

College (How long) _____

6. Have you taken Chiropractic adjustments? _____ 7. If so, from whom? _____

8. Are any members of your family or near relatives Chiropractors? _____

Name them and give Address _____

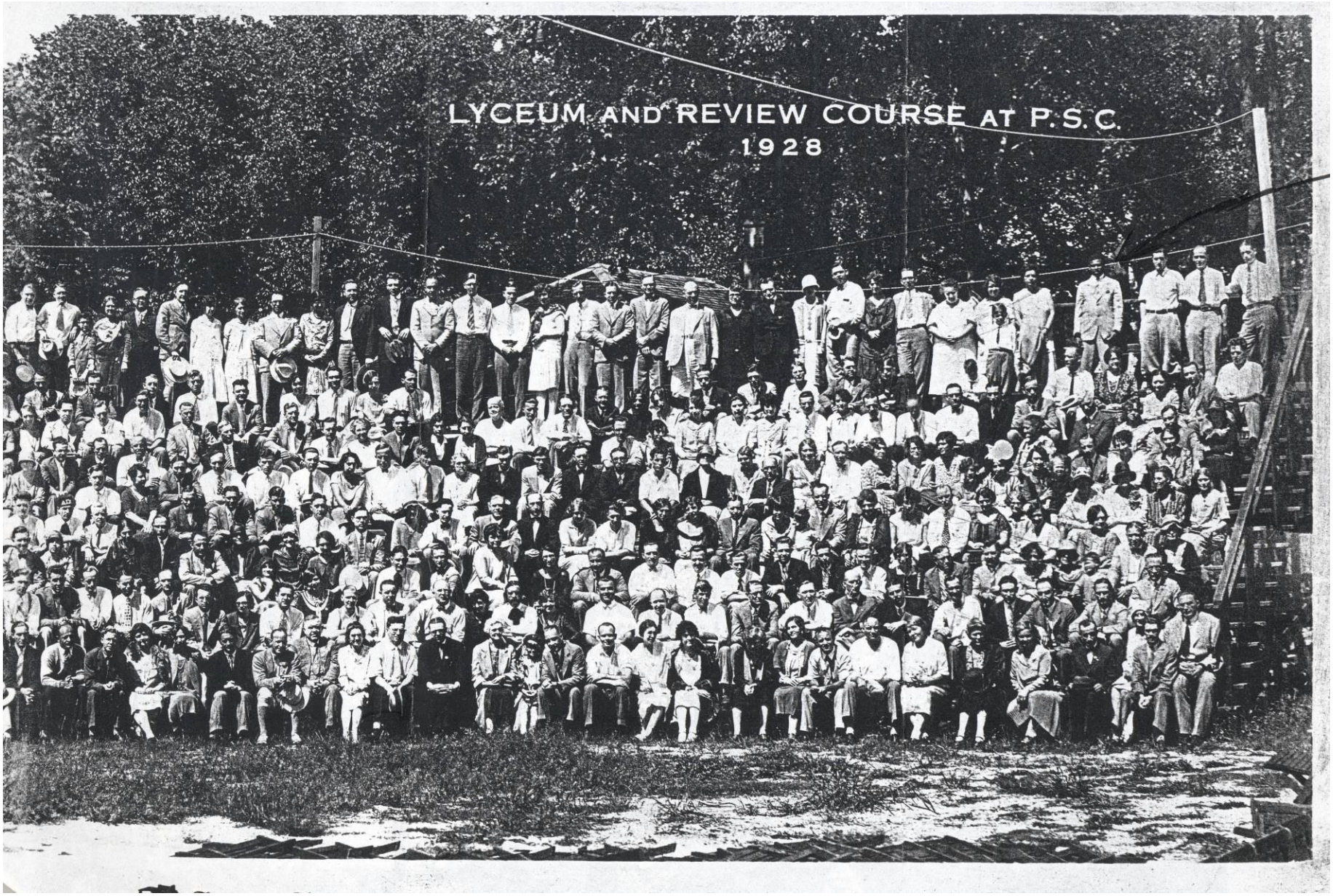
9. Are you married or single? _____ How many dependent children? _____

10. When could you enroll? _____, 193__

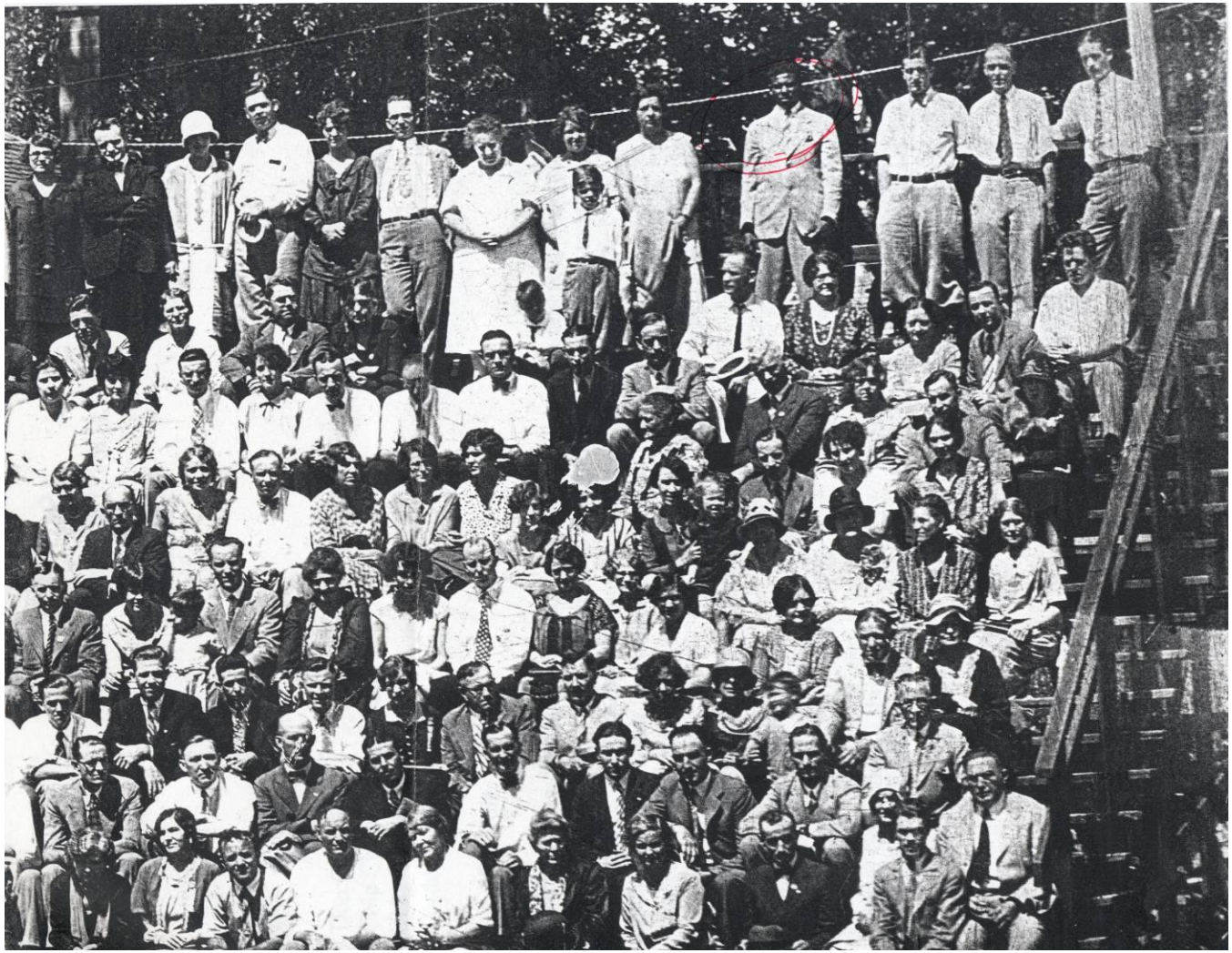
11. Nationality? (Negroes not accepted) _____

12. Check two booklets from the following list that you would like to have sent you:

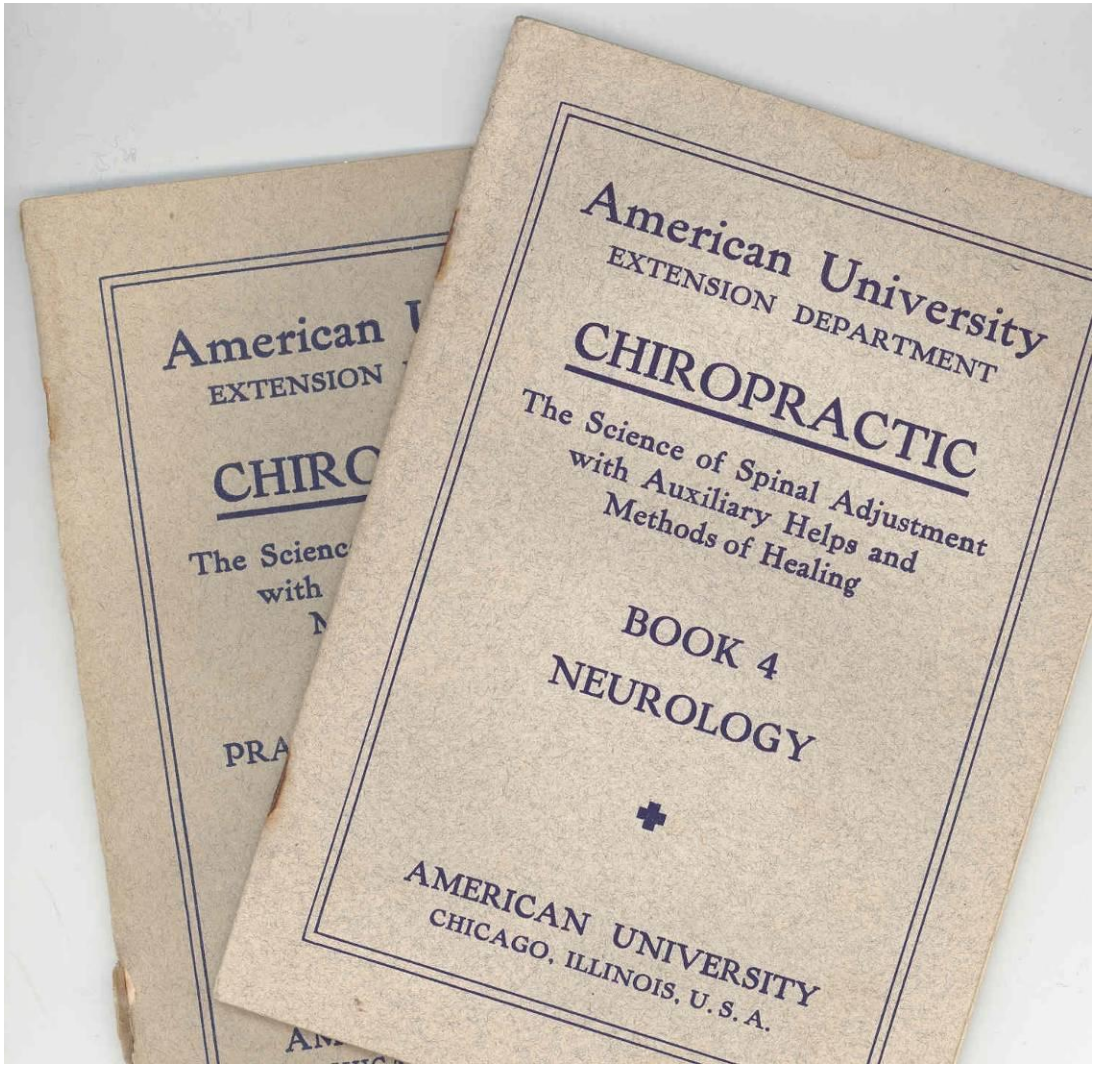
☐ The Last Word.
☐ B. J. Palmer, Lecturer.
☐ A Tour Through The P.S.C.
☐ The Chiropractic Field.


LYCEUM AND REVIEW COURSE AT P.S.C.
1928

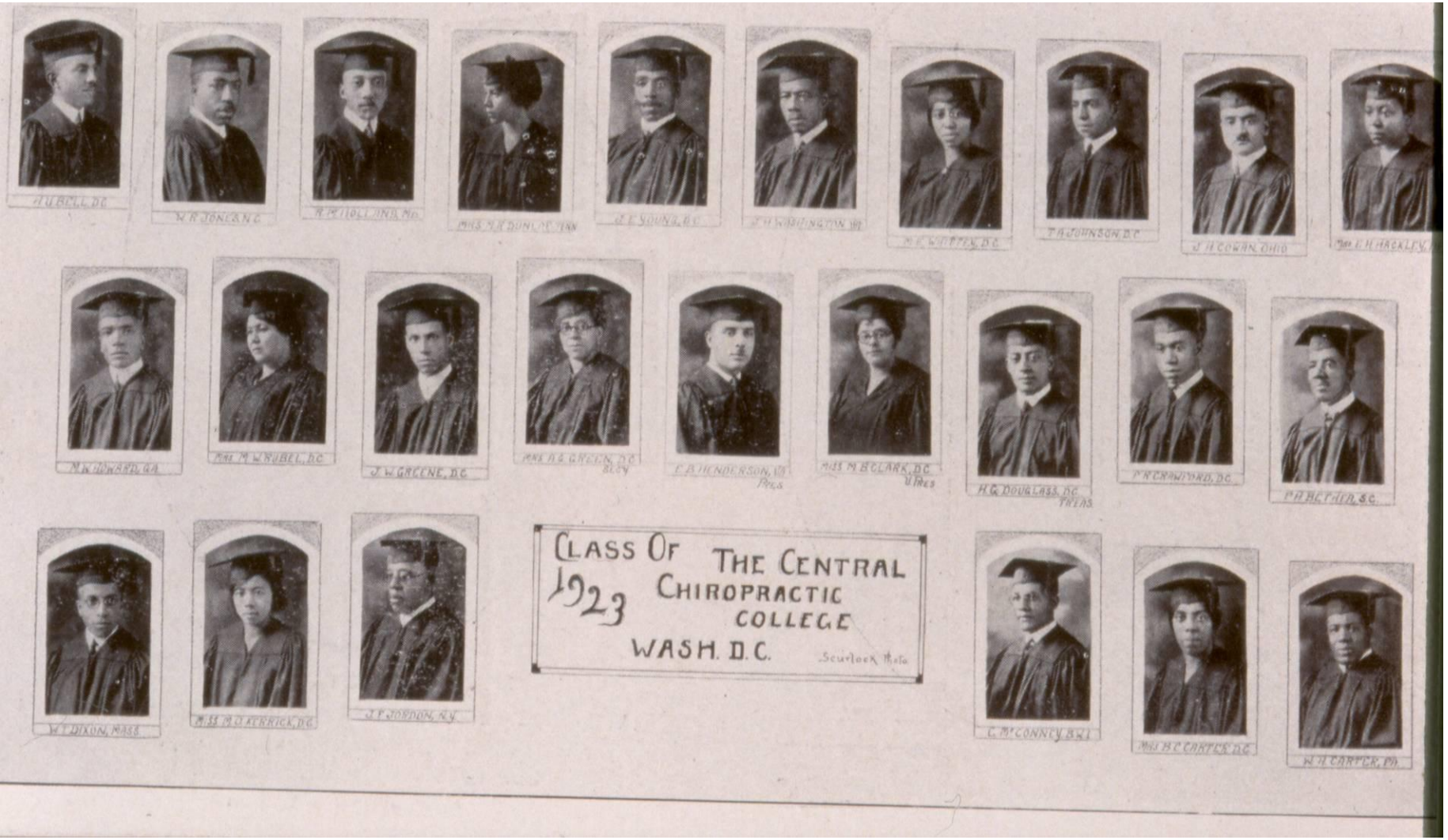
African-American at PSC Lyceum, 1928?



Bulletin of the American University, a Correspondence College

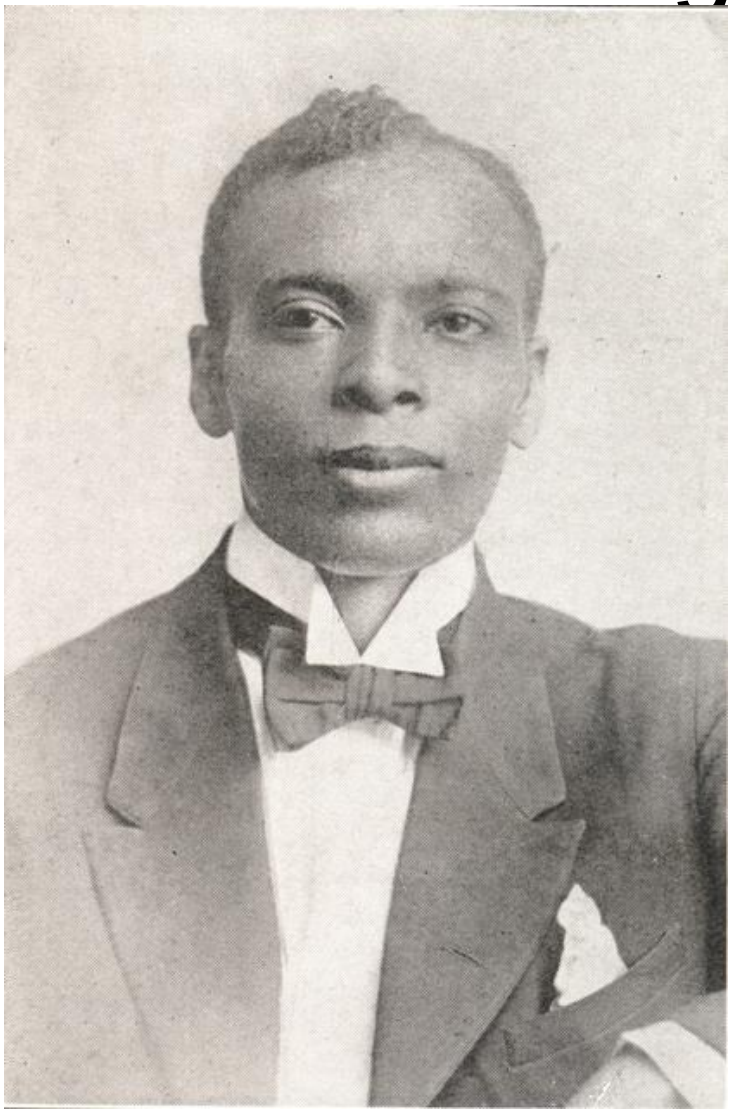


Central Chiropractic College, 1923



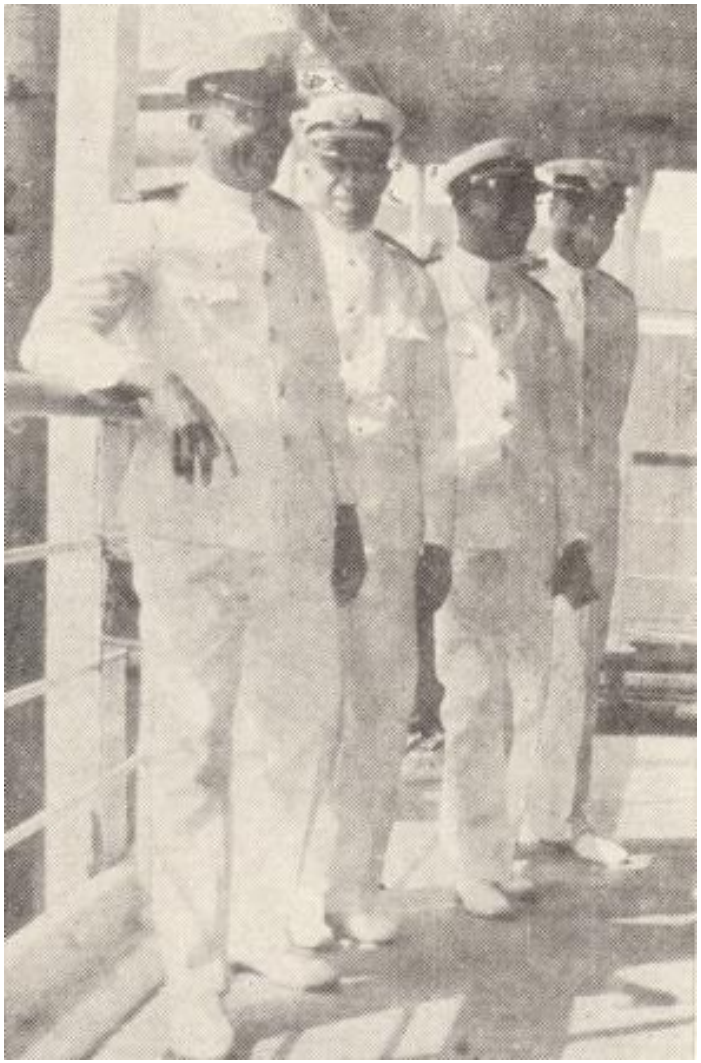
Exterior, Rubel Chiropractic College

Faculty Member, Julien Dawson of Rubel College



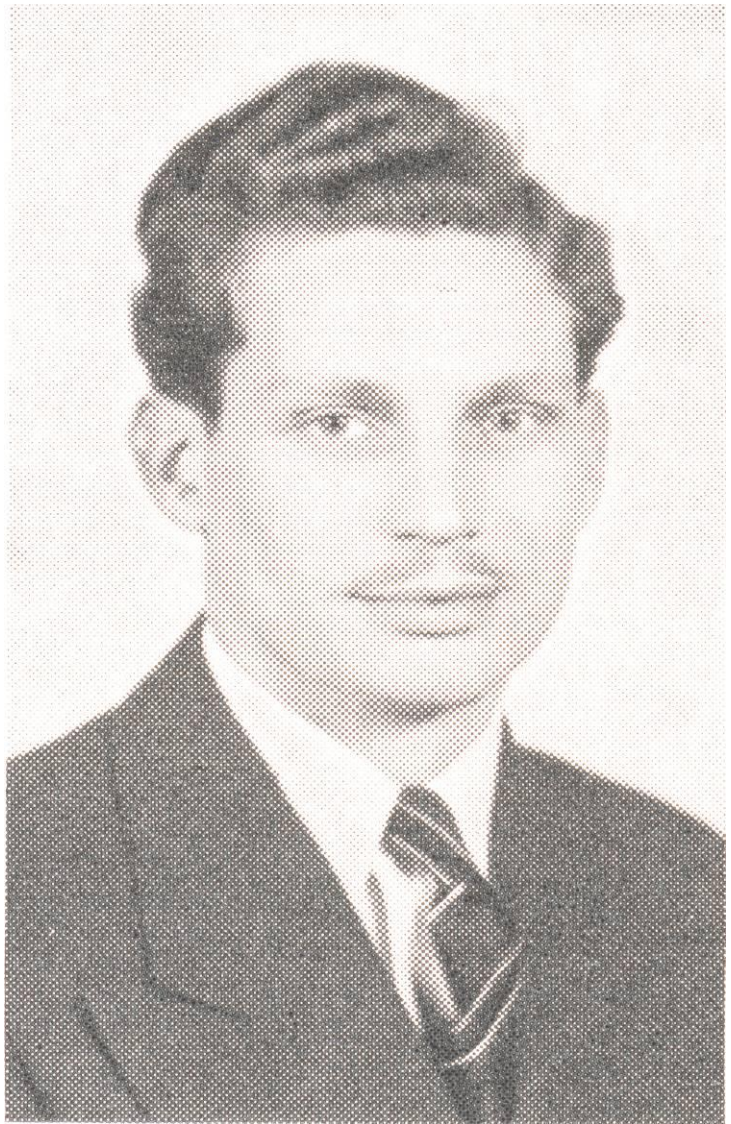
A.A. Cole (left), John Usher (right) Organizing members of the Interstate Chiropractic Association

R.C. Hunt, Arthur Cole, Leslie Jones, and C.A. Griffith, 1938



B.J. Palmer, President of the PSC 1906-1961.

Clarence Reaver



The Reaver School, as featured in Ebony Magazine

Art of adjusting is demonstrated on a real volunteer by youthful Clarence E. Reaver, president and founder of the Reaver School. Schools entrance (below) is seen [illegible] by students and patients. House and grounds were transformed a private estate.

SCHOOL FOR CHIROPRACTORS

WHILE many of the patients who pay more than $60,000,000 a year to the 20,000 chiropractors in the U. S. are Negroes, few colored men and women have been able to enter this large and lucrative medical practice. But this year 15 students, including one Southern white, have gathered in the one-time Stolz mansion of Dayton, Ohio, to break the town's near-lily-white educational pattern and to learn how to cure man's ills by hand-manipulation (or "adjusting") of the spinal column.

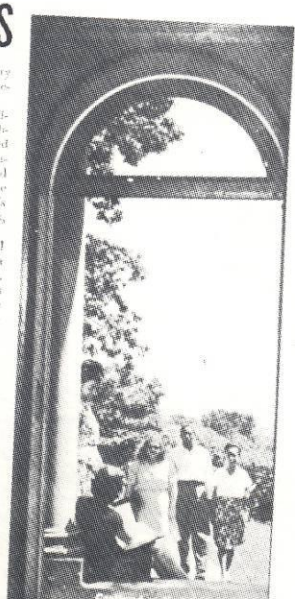
The Reaver School of Chiropractic, the first ever to open its classes without a racial quota, was set up a year ago on a high, grassy hill overlooking west Dayton. Immediately a barrage of "sticks and stones" were mailed and wired to its youthful president, Clarence E. Reaver, from other chiropractors.

Already booed by doctors as "one of those quack chiropractors" and equally damned by pharmacists, who believe drugless healing bodes their profession no good, Reaver met still more opposition from the Montgomery County Chiropractic Association, which relieved him of his duties as an officer.

Undaunted, Reaver and his board of directors (ex-NAACP director, minister, clubwoman, ex-Red Cross nurse) plan to expand the red brick mansion into the largest institution of its kind in the world. A TB wing and a mental sanitarium will be erected on the school's 25 acres, in accordance with Reaver's belief, despite outraged dissent from the AMA, that chiropractic can cure these diseases.

No sudden convert to the cause of equal opportunity, the young president practiced on Dayton's crowded (20,000) Negro west side, wondered why more Negroes and whites couldn't be trained to cut the high disease rate he found there. One expatriot was so impressed with drugless medicine that she decided to study it. The Reaver School was established after she found that no existing schools were free of racial quotas.

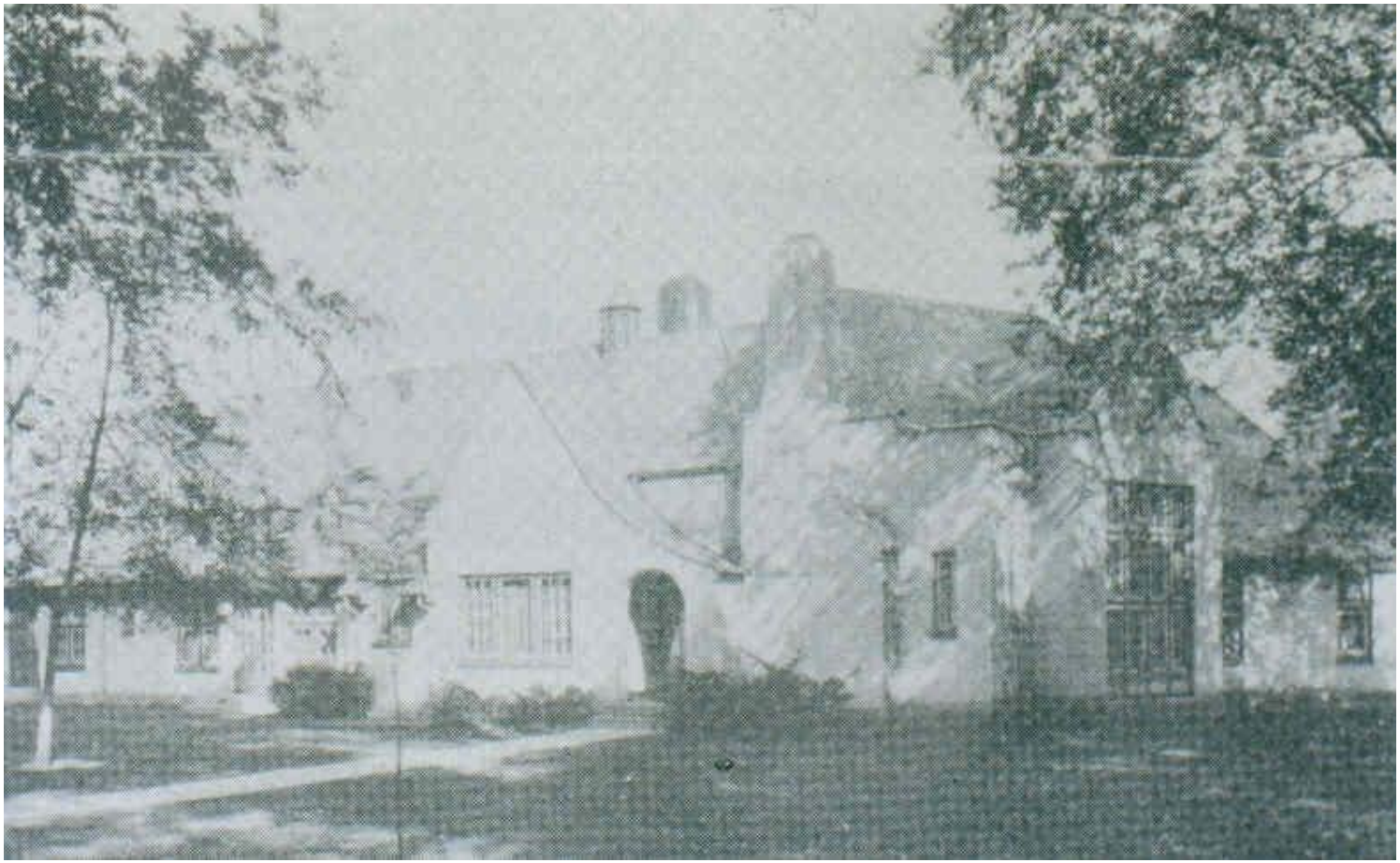
Outdoor classes on grassy 25-acre grounds are students' favorites, afford fine view of Dayton's business section.



The Reaver School of Chiropractic Dayton, Ohio 1945-1951

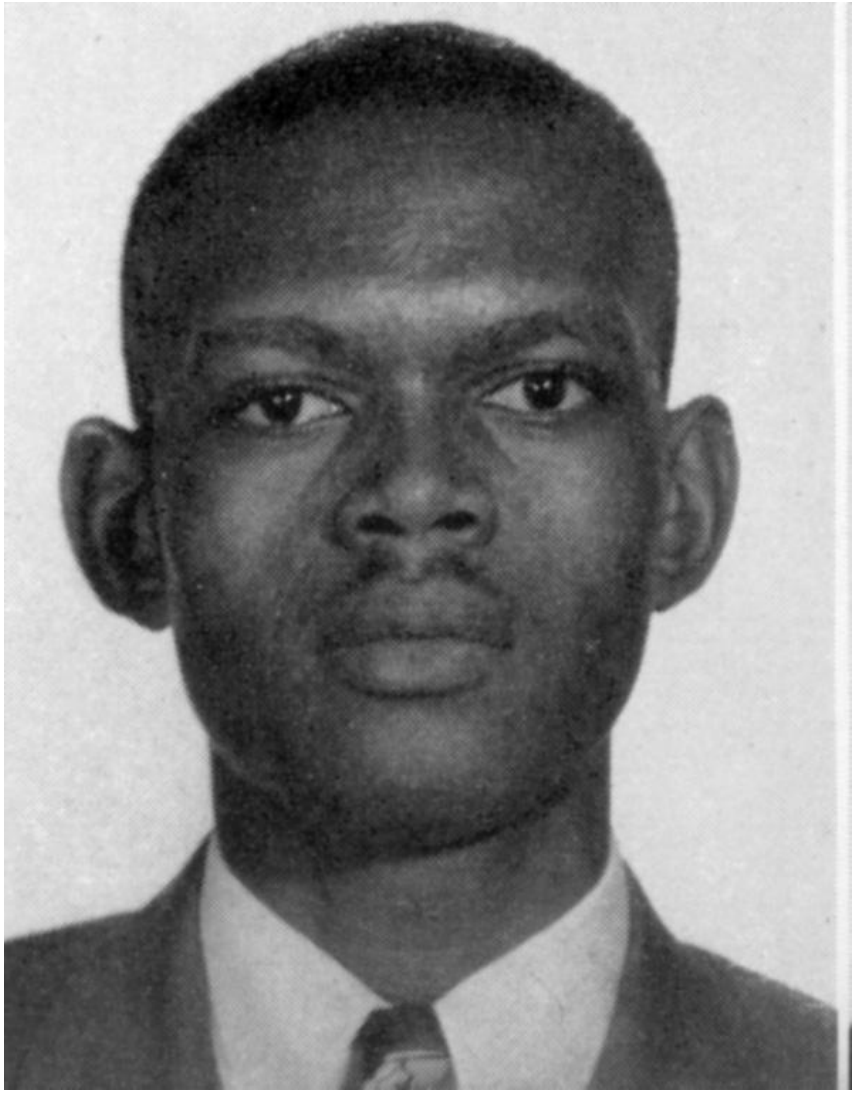
Art of adjusting is demonstrated on a cued volunteer by youthful Clarence E. Reaver, president and founder of the Reaver School. School's entrance (below) is meeting place for students and patients. House and grounds once constituted a private estate.

International College of Chiropractic, Dayton, OH 1948-1955

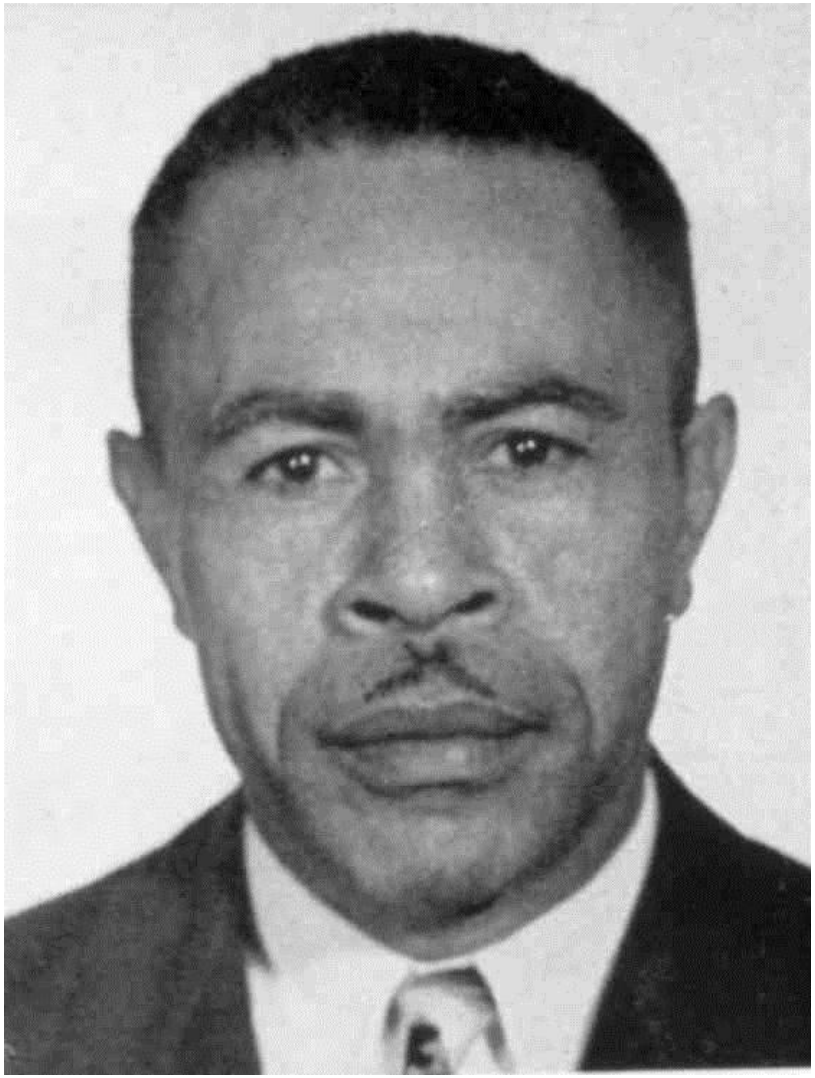


Faculty of International College, 1949

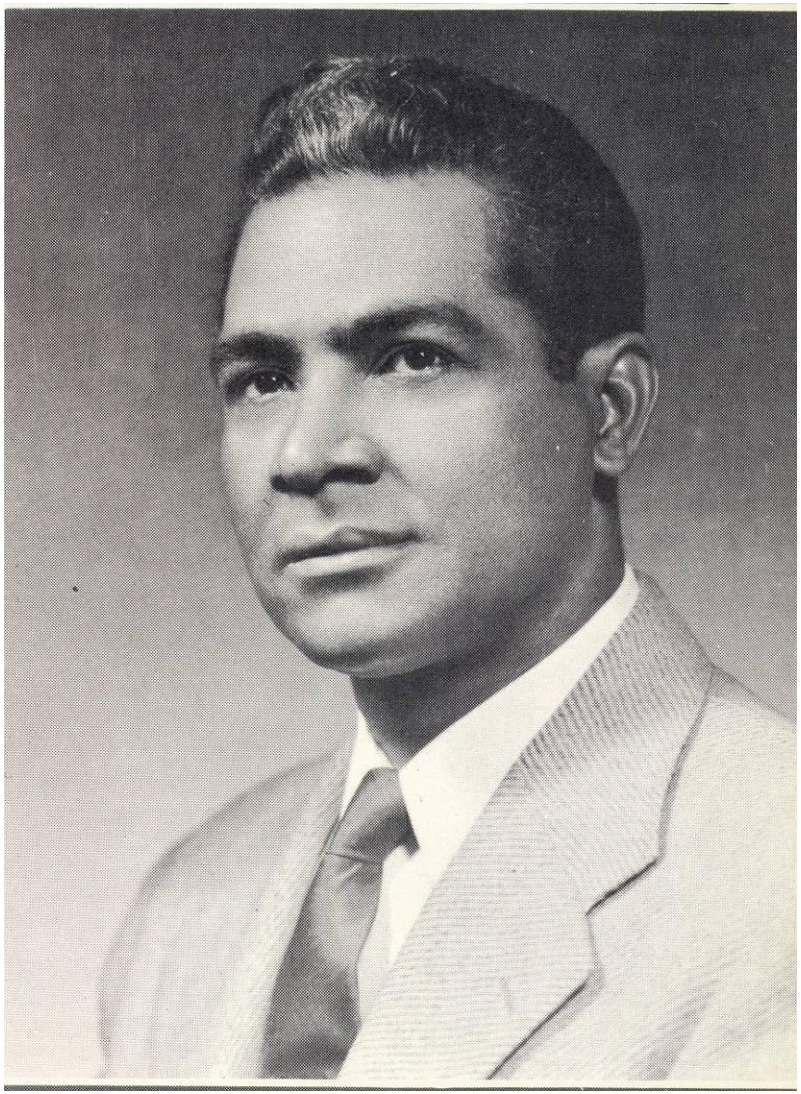
Ossie Johnson, a 1950 graduate of Missouri Chiropractic College



Walton Russ, First African-American to be licensed in Arkansas - 1954



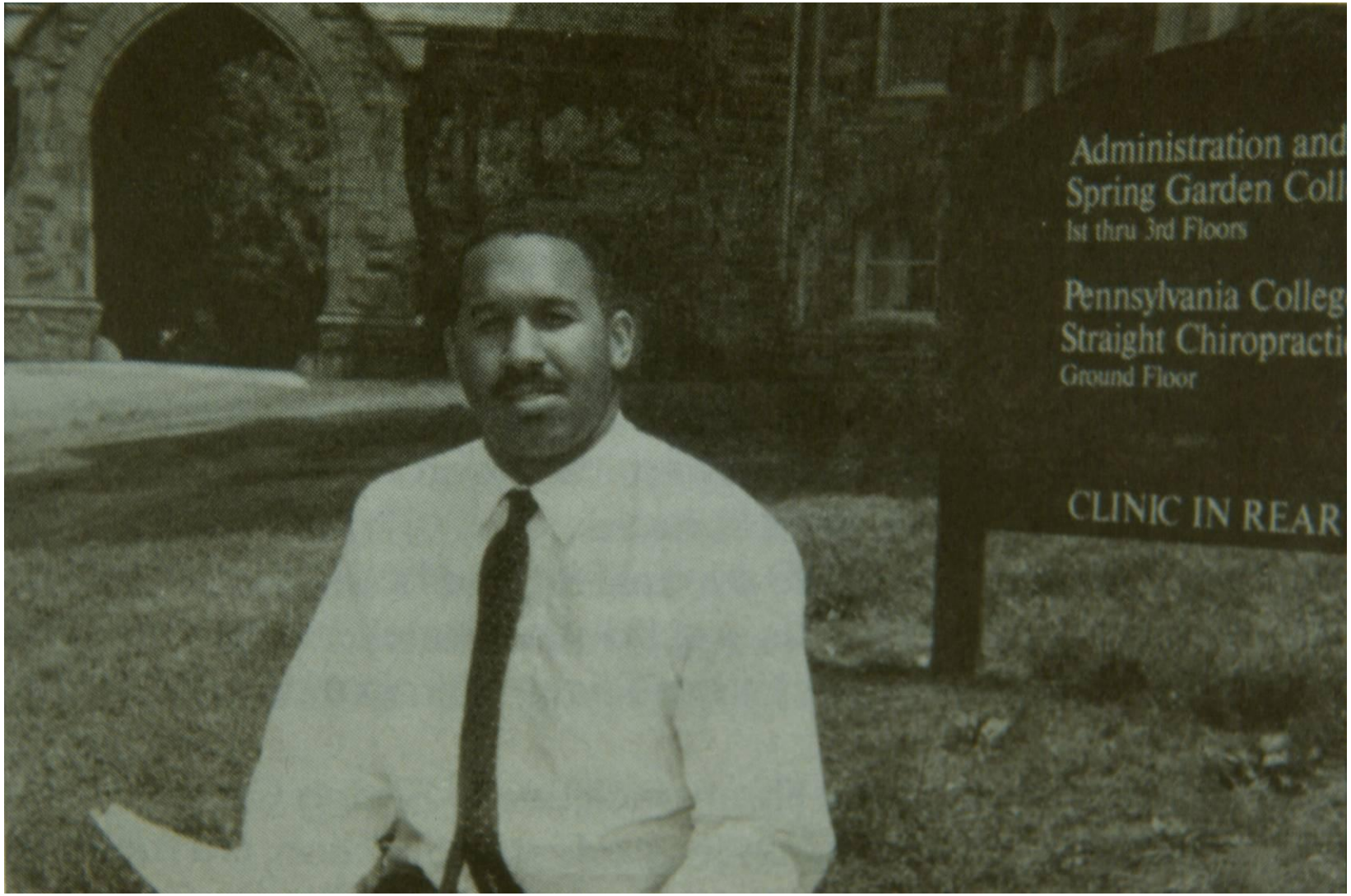
Stanley Dale, PSC, 1956



Study group in the PSC library

Milous Reese, Alabama Chiropractor of the Year, 1979

Ad For Pennsylvania College of Straight Chiropractic, 1980s.



Bobby Westbrooks, D.C.

- **Helped form the American Black Chiropractor's Association**
- **Wrote the seminal article on African-Americans in Chiropractic**

ABCA's Third Annual Convention. Pasadena, Texas

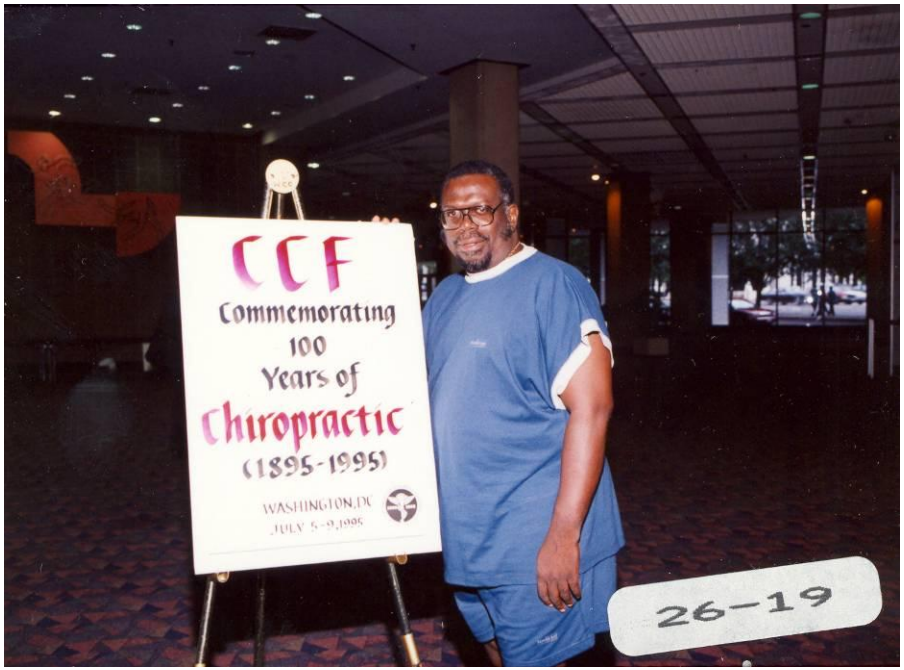
ACA President Kenneth Luedte, SABCA President Gloria Niles, and ABCA Vice-President Herman Glass II, at the 1988 annual convention in Chicago.

ABCA Officers at a symposium addressing minorities in chiropractic on the Palmer campus, 1990.

Willard Smith, D.C., President of the California Chiropractic Association in 1990.

Panel on African-Americans in Chiropractic, Chiropractic Centennial Celebration, Washington D.C., July 1995

Celebrating 100 Years of Chiropractic



American Black Chiropractic Association Makes Splash in Jamaica

Jamaican Chiropractic Association Launched

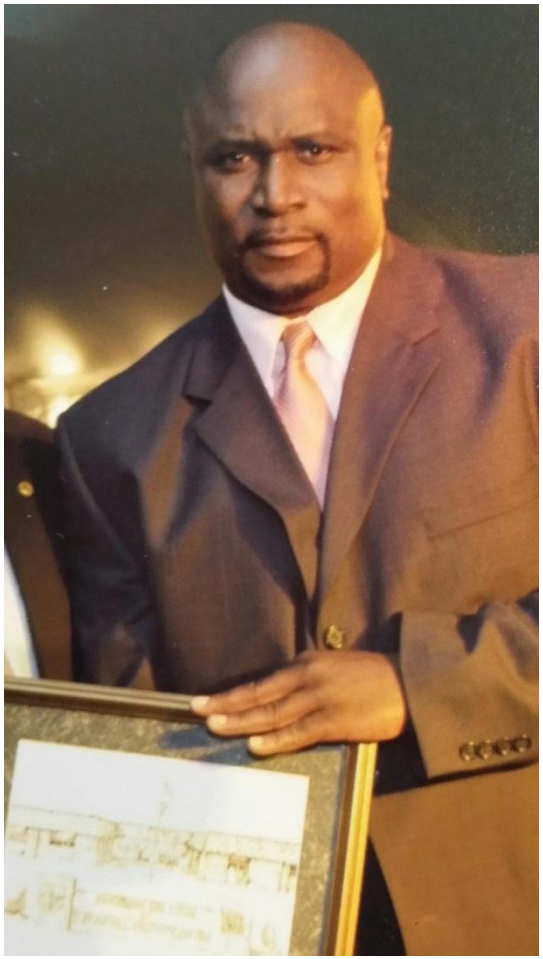
The American Black Chiropractic Association (ABCA) held its 15th annual national convention Aug. 14-18 in Jamaica, that verdant isle in the West Indies that rises out of the Caribbean Sea some 90 miles of blue water south of Cuba.

Members of the American Black Chiropractic

President of Sherman College

July 01, 2001 through July 2005

Recruitment = Secret Weapon



Mr. Mackel Harris

ABCA Joins the Chiro Summit

www.ChiroSummit.org

New Web Site

www.ABCAchiro.com

Current ABCA Board

2014 Convention

Mission Statement

Integrating and improving outcomes for

persons of color

entering the profession of Doctor of Chiropractic.

Constitution Purpose:

- To recruit, encourage and support black persons to study chiropractic.
- To encourage camaraderie and leadership amongst black chiropractic doctors, instructors, technicians and students.
- To assist chiropractic colleges in recruiting qualified black students and faculty members.
- To teach and perform research in chiropractic.
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience, and research among doctors of chiropractic
- To help advance the science, philosophy, and art of chiropractic, and to improve the standards in chiropractic professional knowledge.
- To donate time and services to neighborhood health clinics.
- To perform community education.
- To establish the Harvey Lillard scholarship fund for members of the Student American Black Chiropractic Association

What % of the Population

What % currently get adjusted

What % should

What % are minority

What % are minority doctors

Diversity & Growth

The Schools

&

The Profession

Needs Minorities to get involved

We Need “Everyone” to get involved

ARE YOU A MINORITY

Are you a minority in the field of healthcare?

Have your "Professional" Civil Rights been violated?

As societies conscious changes so do laws.

Discrimination of Minorities is no-longer acceptable.

Sec. 2706

The ACA nondiscrimination provision states:

"A group health plan and a health insurance issuer *offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall not discriminate with respect to participation under the plan or coverage against any health care provider who is acting within the scope of that provider's license or certification under applicable State law."*

We have more in Common

History is written everyday.

What will Chiropractic look like in the next 100 years.

“The History of Chiropractic!”

By YOU

THANK YOU

Dr Winston Kyle Carhee Jr.
3915 Cascade Road, Suite 220
Atlanta, GA 30331
404-647-2225
www.ABCAchiro.com
president@abcachiro.com

TIMETOAST

The "Black" History of Chiropractic

Sep 18, 1895

The First Chiropractic Adjustment

The first adjustment was given by D.D. Palmer to Mr. Harvey Lillard

Sep 18, 1895

D. D. Palmer

Delivered the First Adjustment

Sep 18, 1895

Harvery Lillard

Owned a Janatorial service where D D Palmer was studying.

Jan 1, 1899

Portrait of Harvey Lillard

Potrait of Harvey Lillard who was revered and welcome to all the Palmer Chiropractic events for his role in helping discover chiropractic

Jan 1, 1913

Fred Rubel

First know AA to graduate form National School of Chiropractic

Jan 1, 1921

PSC - Application

The Admission application read "No Negros Allowed"

Jan 1, 1922

The Rubel College of Chiropractic

School foundend by Fred Rubel a 1913 graduate of National School of Chiropractic
Believed yo be the first Black Chiropractor

Jan 1, 1923

American Correspondence Corse

Many A.A. chose to get thier Chiropractic Education through this correspondence course.

Mar 10, 1923

Central Chiropractic College

A segregated Chiropractic Shool in Washington, DC for African Americans

Jan 1, 1925

Julien Dawson - Faculty at Rubel College of Chiropractic

Picture of AA Faculty at Rubel College of Chiropractic

Jan 1, 1927

Interstate Chiropractic Association

The first Black Chiropractic Associatiton founders AA Cole and John User

May 1, 1928

Picture of A.A. at Palmer School of Chiropractic

Black who spoke a foriegn laguage were allowed to enter Chiropractic schools 1920 - 1950

Jan 1, 1941

BJ Palmer President of PSC 1906 - 1961

The Palmer School's refusal to accept African-American students was inconsistent with B.J. Palmer's public statements of racial tolerance "Give me a spine, not a color of the skin, but give me a spine, and I'll set the world on fire"

Jan 1, 1944

Clarence Reaver

Mr. Reaver challege BJ Palmer to admit a promissing AA student. BJ Palmer put it to a vote of the student body and the souther block of students treatened to walk out. BJ folded due to economic pressure.

Jan 1, 1945

Reaver School of Chiropractic , Dayton, OH

Dr Reaver fromed a school for AA students and caucasion students to study chiropractic together. the ratio was 1 white to 2 blacks. It wasa supported by Palmer School of Chiropractic faculty initially.

Jan 1, 1948

International College, Dayton, OH 1948 - 1955

Accepted the GI Bill and took many students from Reever School of Chiropractic

Jan 1, 1949

Faculty of the International College

Black and White faculty at the International College in Dayton, OH

Jan 1, 1950

Ossie Johnson, a 1950 graduate of Missouri Chiropractic College

Jan 1, 1954

Walton Russ, First AA to be licensed in Arkansas - 1954

Jan 1, 1956

Stanley Dale

Palmer School of Chiropractic graduate

Jan 1, 1959

Study Group at Palmer Schoool of Chiropractic

Study Group in PSC Library

Jan 1, 1979

Milous Reese, Alabama Chiropractor of the Year, 1979

Jan 1, 1980

Ad For Pennsylvania College of Straight Chiropractic, 1980s.

Jan 1, 1982

Bobby Westbrooks, D.C - ABCA Founder

Helped form The American Black Chiropractic Association

Jul 1, 1985

ABCA's Third Annual Convention. Pasadena, Texas

Jul 9, 1988

ABCA 1988 Annual Convention in Chicago.

ACA President Kenneth Luedte, SABCA President Gloria Niles, and ABCA Vice-President Herman Glass II,

Jan 1, 1990

Willard Smith, D.C., President of the California Chiropractic Association in 1990.

Feb 9, 1990

ABCA Officers at Palmer campus, 1990

Attending a symposium addressing minorities in chiropractic

Jan 1, 1995

Cal Witworth - Celebrting 100 Years of Chiropractic

Jul 1, 1995

Panel on African-Americans in Chiropractic

Chiropractic Centennial Celebration, Washington D.C., July 1995

Jul 1, 1995

Dr. Hernman Glass - Celebrating 100 Years in Chiropractic

Jul 1, 2001

Black President of Sherman College of Chiropractic

Dr. Jerry Hardee was the first Black Presidnt of one of the "Main Stream" Chiropractic Schools in the nation. His tenure lasted until July 2005.

Currently he hold a position at Life Univeristy in Marietta, GA as Vice Presidnet and oversees "diversity" on Life University's Campus

Feb 12, 2002

Makel Harris joins Jerry Hardee to recruit for Sherman

Feb 9, 2006

ABCA Jamacia Convention

Jun 9, 2009

ABCA Joins the Chiropractic Summit

Chiro Summit Website The Chiropractic Summit was created in September 2007 in recognition of the profession's desire for unity. The first Summit meeting, held in Washington, D.C., was comprised of 13 organizations; the Summit has some 40 members , representing leadership from education, research, regulatory bodies, political action, practice management, chiropractic media and national associations.

Sep 9, 2012

ABCA Launches New Website

New Web Site

Jun 27, 2013

Current ABCA Board

Las Vegas Nevada

Jun 26, 2014

ABCA New Orleans Annual Convention

Sep 18, 1895 — Sep 18, 1995

First 100 Years of Chiropractic

Jan 1, 1920 — Jan 1, 1950

No African Americans Allowed in "Big" Chiropractic Schools

Although Afican Americans were not allowed in desegrigated schools. There were some chiropractic schools formed to teach A.A.

Jan 1, 1990 — Feb 12, 2014

Makel Harris - Starts recruiting qualified African American Students

Single handedly recurits more African Americans than all the other school combined.

Jul 1, 2001 — Jul 24, 2005

Black Presidnt of Chiropractic College

Dr. Jerry Hardee was the first black president of one of the "MainStream" Chiropractic Schools in the nation.